WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for central supply control of products, having long delivery times from a manufacturing site to dealers, via a data network having at least one central data bank, each dealer being allocated at least one computer configured to make data inquiries to centrally managed data in the data bank of at least one of an assigned importer and manufacturer, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) dividing inventories into at least two process segments;

(b) allocating the inventories in the respective process segments to at least one of individual dealers and importers, the allocated inventories being subdivided into free inventories, non-free inventories and inventories allocated to ultimate consumers;

(c) performing a search inquiry for a desired product by a dealer in accordance with the allocated computer, the search extending to inventories that have not been allocated to the ultimate consumer and that have been allocated to another dealer but are acquirable after negotiation with the another dealer, wherein a sequence of the search inquiry among inventories is performed selectively in accordance with at least one condition stipulated by at least one of the dealer and the data network; and

(d) acquiring a product located by the dealer, the acquired produce being regrouped from an originally allocated inventory to the dealer's inventory.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of revising non-free inventories of a dealer to free inventories after a predefined period of time.

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of allocating the acquired product to the dealer's non-free inventory if the acquired product has not been

allocated to a customer and if the acquired product originated from the non-free inventory of another dealer.

4.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of (e) dividing inventories into inventories before product completion and inventories after product completion.

5.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning to each dealer a minimum quota and a maximum quota in each product segment.

6.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the step (c) includes the substep of searching an oldest product first among the inventories if no conditions are stipulated, the search being performed first through free inventories.

7.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of performing a production ordering step in response to an unsuccessful searching step.

8.   The method according to claim 4, wherein the inventory of a dealer is divided in the dividing step (e) into:

the dealer's free inventories before product completion;

the importer's free inventories before product completion;

non-free inventories of other dealers before product completion;

the dealer's inventories after product completion;

the importer's free inventories after product completion;

non-free inventories of other dealers after product completion;

free inventories of other dealers after product completion; and

blocked inventories having a customer allocation.

9.   The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of canceling the maximum quota of a post-product completion quota after a predefined period of time.

10.   A device for central supply control of products having long delivery times between a manufacturing site and dealers, comprising:

a data network including at least one central data bank, each dealer being allocated one computer configured to make inquiries to centrally managed data in the data bank, inventories in the data bank being divided into at least two process steps and being allocated to at least one of individual importers and dealers, the allocated inventories being subdivided into free inventories, non-free inventories and inventories allocated to consumers, the computer being configured to perform a search inquiry for a desired product in the central data bank initiated by at least one of a dealer and an importer, the search extending to warehouse inventories that have not yet been allocated to a consumer, have not yet been allocated to a dealer, have been allocated to another dealer but are reservable without negotiation and have been allocated to another dealer but are reservable only after negotiation with the another dealer, wherein a sequence of the search inquiry among the inventories is selectively performed on at least one additional condition stipulated by at least one of the dealer and the data network and wherein a product that has been located is acquirable for the dealer and transferrable to the allocation of the dealer.

11.   A computer-readable storing medium storing a set of instructions, the set of instructions capable of being executed by a processor arrangement to implement a method for central supply control of products, having long delivery times from a manufacturing site to dealers, via a data network having at least one central data bank, each dealer being allocated at least one computer configured to make data inquiries to centrally managed data in the data bank of at

least one of an assigned importer and manufacturer, the method
including the steps of:

(a) dividing inventories into at least two process
segments;

(b) allocating the inventories in the respective process
segments to at least one of individual dealers and importers,
the allocated inventories being subdivided into free
inventories, non-free inventories and inventories allocated to
ultimate consumers;

(c) performing a search inquiry for a desired product by
a dealer in accordance with the allocated computer, the search
extending to inventories that have not been allocated to the
ultimate consumer and that have been allocated to another
dealer but are acquirable after negotiation with the another
dealer, wherein a sequence of the search inquiry among
inventories is performed selectively in accordance with at
least one condition stipulated by at least one of the dealer
and the data network; and

(d) acquiring a product located by the dealer, the
acquired produce being regrouped from an originally allocated
inventory to the dealer's inventory.

12. The computer-readable storing medium according to
claim 11, wherein the method further includes the step of
revising non-free inventories of a dealer to free inventories
after a predefined period of time.

13. The computer-readable storing medium according to
claim 11, wherein the method further includes the step of
allocating the acquired product to the dealer's non-free
inventory if the acquired product has not been allocated to a
customer and if the acquired product originated from the non-
free inventory of another dealer.

14. The computer-readable storing medium according to
claim 11, wherein the method further includes the step of (e)

dividing inventories into inventories before product
completion and inventories after product completion.

15. The computer-readable storing medium according to
claim 11, wherein the method further includes the step of
assigning to each dealer a minimum quota and a maximum quota
in each product segment.

16. The computer-readable storing medium according to
claim 11, wherein the step (c) includes the substep of
searching an oldest product first among the inventories if no
conditions are stipulated, the search being performed first
through free inventories.

17. The computer-readable storing medium according to
claim 11, wherein the method further includes the step of
performing a production ordering step in response to an
unsuccessful searching step.

18. The computer-readable storing medium according to
claim 14, wherein the inventory of a dealer is divided in the
dividing step (e) into:
    the dealer's free inventories before product
completion;
    the importer's free inventories before product
completion;
    non-free inventories of other dealers before product
completion;
    the dealer's inventories after product completion;
    the importer's free inventories after product
completion;
    non-free inventories of other dealers after product
completion;
    free inventories of other dealers after product
completion; and
    blocked inventories having a customer allocation.

19. The computer-readable storing medium according to claim 15, wherein the method further includes the step of canceling the maximum quota of a post-product completion quota after a predefined period of time.